

GOOD ADVICE ON VARIOUS STATE QUESTIONS

With regard to labor the problem is no less important, but it is perhaps more difficult to solve. The primary control of the police power and the circumstances must be gathered extreme which require interference by the federal authorities, who are in the way of safeguarding the rights of labor or in the way of doing that wrong in which they are engaged. I think I should like to remind the name of labor. If there resistance to the federal courts, interference with the mails, or in interstate commerce, or in violation of federal property, or if the state courts are unable to face call for help, then the federal government may interfere; but though such interference may be caused by a condition things arising out of trouble coming with such conditions, the federal interference simply takes the form of restoring order without regard the questions which have caused breach of order—for to keep order is a primary duty and in a time of disorder and violence all other considerations in the maintenance of order has been restored. In the District of Columbia and in the territories the federal law covers the entire field of government; but the last question is only acute in popular centers of commerce, manufacturing and distribution, where the enactment and in the enforcement of law the federal government with its restricted sphere should not be ample to the state governments, especially in a matter so vital as the affecting labor. I believe that unless the federal government is called upon ten necessary, and even where necessary it is yet often wise, that there should be organization of labor in order better to secure the rights the individual wage-worker. All encouragement should be given to such organization, and it should be conducted with a due and disregard for the rights of others. There are in the country some labor unions which have habitually, and others perhaps which have often, among the most effective agents in the maintenance of peace and in uplifting the condition of those whose welfare should be closest to our hearts. But when the labor union seeks improper ends, or seeks to achieve proper ends by improper means, all good citizens and more especially the federal government must oppose the wrongdoing of great corporation. Of course any force, brutality, or corruption, but not for one moment be tolerated. Wage-workers have an entire right to organize and by all peaceful means to maintain peace, as to send their fellows to join with in organizations. They have a right, which, according to circumstances, may or may not be a moral right, to refuse to work in company with men who decline to join the organizations, and in such circumstances the right to non-violence upon those, whether capitalists or wage-workers, who refuse

The safety-appliance law, as amended by the act of March 2, 1903, has proven beneficial to railway companies, and it is considered that provisions may be properly carried out, the force of inspectors provided for by appropriation should be largely increased. This service is analogous to the steamboat-inspection service, and deals with even more important interests. It has passed the experimental stage, and is considered its utility, and should receive generous recognition by the congress.

There is no objection to employees of the government forming or belonging to unions; but the government can neither discriminate for nor discriminate against nonunion men who seek employment, or who seek to be employed by the government. It is a very grave impropriety for government employees to band themselves together for the purpose of securing improperly high salaries from the government. Especially is this true of those within the classified service. The better carriers, both municipal or corporate, as a whole, are excellent body of public servants. They should be amply paid. But their payment must be obtained by arguing their claims fairly and honorably before the congress, and not by banding together for the defeat of the congressmen who refuse to give provisions which they do not conscientiously give. The administration has already taken steps to prevent and punish abuses of this nature, but it will be wise for the congress to supplement this action by legislation.

Bureau of Labor.

Much can be done by the government in labor matters merely by giving publicity to certain conditions. The bureau of labor has done ex-

and common sense. It runs its part as follows:

"It is my belief we can better serve each other better understanding the man as well as his business, when meeting face to face, exchanging views, and realizing from personal contact we serve but one interest, that of our mutual prosperity.

"Serious misunderstandings can not occur where personal good will exists. An opportunity for personal explanation is present.

"In my early business life I had experience with men of affairs of a character to make me desire to avoid creating a like feeling of resentment to myself and the interests in my charge, should fortune ever place me in rivalry, as an ill solicited of a measure of confidence received from the public and our employees that I shall hope may be warranted by the fairness and good fellowship I intend shall prevail in our relationship.

"But do not feel I am disposed to grant unreasonable requests, spend the money of our company unnecessarily, or that improvements we all expect the days of mistakes and disappearing, or that cause for complaint will not continually occur; simply to correct such abuses as may be discovered, to better conditions as fast as reasonably may be expected, constantly striving with crying wrongs, that improvements we all desire to convince you there is a force at work in the right direction, all the time making progress—is the disposition with which I have come among you, asking your good will and encouragement.

"The day has gone by when a corporation can be handled successfully in defiance of the public will, even though that will may be unreasonable and wrong. The public may be held, but

The supreme court finally resolved that question in the negative, so that as the law now stands the commission simply possesses the bare power to regulate the rates of interstate commerce. While I am of the opinion that at present it would be undesirable, if it were not impracticable, finally to clothe the commission with general authority to fix railroad rates, I do believe that, as a fair security to shippers, the commission should be vested with the power where a given rate may be deemed a dangerous precedent, the subject of judicial review what shall be a reasonable rate to take its place; the ruling of the commission to take effect immediately; and to obtain unless and until it is reversed by the court of review. The government must in increasing degree supervise and regulate the workings of the railways and control the rate of commerce and seek increased supervision is the only alternative to an increase of the present evils on the one hand or a still more radical policy on the other. In my judgement the most important legislative act now needed as regards the regulation of corporations is this act to confer on the interstate commerce commission the power to control commerce.

Several considerations suggest the need for a systematic investigation into and improvement of housing conditions in Washington. The hidden residential slums are breeding grounds of vice and disease, and should be opened into minor streets. For a number of years influential citizens have joined with the district commissioners in the vain endeavor to secure laws permitting the condemnation of insanitary dwellings. The local death rates, especially from preventable diseases, are no index of the extent to which the national wholesomeness of Washington's better sections is offset by bad conditions in her poor neighborhoods. A special "commission on housing and health conditions in the national capital" would not only bring about the reformation of existing evils, but would also formulate an appropriate program for the prevention of such evils from mammoth brick tenements and other evils which threaten to develop here as they have in other cities. That the nation's capital should be made a model for other municipalities is an ideal which appeals to all patriotic citizens everywhere, and such a special commission might map out and organize the city's future.

We sell abroad about six hundred million dollars' worth of plants and their products every year. Strenuous efforts are being made to import from foreign countries such grains as are suitable to our varying climates. Seven years ago we bought three-fourths of our rice by helping the rice growers on the gulf coast to secure seeds from the Orient suited to their conditions, and by giving them adequate protection. They now supply home demand and export to the islands of the Caribbean sea and to other rice-growing countries. Wheat and other grains have been imported from light-rainfall countries to our lands in the west and southwest that have not grown crops of this kind before. We are building in an extensive addition to our cropping area and our home-making territory that can be irrigated. Ten million bushels of first-class macaroni wheat were grown from these experimental importations last year. Fruits suitable to our soils and climates are being imported from all countries of the Old World—the fig from Turkey, the almond from Spain, the date from Algeria, the mango from India. We are helping our fruit growers to get their crops into European markets by studying methods of protection, such as refrigeration, packing and handling, which have not been quite successful. We are helping the hop growers by importing varieties that ripen earlier and later than the kinds they have been raising, thereby lengthening the harvesting season. The corn crop has been raised three feet with roots the hollows and the bell were

The second reason for which forest reserves are created is to preserve the timber supply for various classes of wood users. Among the more important of these are settlers under contract to plant and grow timber for whom a cheap and accessible supply of timber for domestic use is absolutely necessary, miners and prospectors, who are in serious danger of losing their timber supply by fire or through export by lumber companies when timber lands adjacent to their mines pass into private ownership; lumbermen, transportation companies, millers, and commercial interests in general.

Although the wisdom of creating forest reserves is nearly everywhere heartily recognized, yet in a few localities there has been misunderstanding and complaint. The following statement is therefore desirable:

The forest-reserve policy can be successful only when it has the full approval of the people of the west. It cannot be carried out, and will be in any case, to the injury of any honest citizen of their will. But neither can we accept the views of those whose only interest in the forest is temporary; who are anxious to reap what they have not sown and then move away, leaving desolation behind them. On the contrary, it is everywhere and always the interest of the permanent settler that he make a stake in the country and the nation.